



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANET NAPOLITANO
GOVERNOR

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April 25, 2005

The Honorable Jim Weiers
Speaker of the House
Arizona House of Representatives
1700 West Washington
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: House Bill 2226: federal funds; reporting

Dear Speaker Weiers:

Today I vetoed House Bill 2226, which would have made the expenditure of federal funds subject to legislative conditions and additional reporting and review requirements. For the reasons set forth in my March 3, 2003 letter regarding House Bill 2248 from the forty-sixth legislature, I continue to oppose legislative efforts to appropriate or condition the spending of federal funds, just as my predecessor governors of both parties have done.

I firmly believe the process by which federal funds are administered in Arizona should be transparent and available for public review. House Bill 2226, however, unnecessarily imposes a host of bureaucratic reporting requirements -- including several additional requirements for "review" by the Joint Legislative Budget Committee ("JLBC") -- that serve no purpose other than to burden Executive Branch agencies that are trying to maximize the use of federal monies available to the State. Particularly given recent legislative efforts to amend the definition of JLBC "review" so as to require a full vote by the JLBC, this constitutes an unwarranted intrusion into the powers of the Executive Branch. In any event, I have made it a priority in my administration to run government more efficiently and reduce unnecessary bureaucracy, and House Bill 2226 contravenes these important goals.

House Bill 2226 also runs counter to my goal of maximizing federal reimbursement to the State to counter the effects of unfunded federal mandates. The bill poses unnecessary conditions on the receipt and use of federal funds that make the pursuit of such funds more onerous and less cost beneficial. Arizonans deserve to get back more of the money we pay to the federal government and we should be making the receipt of federal monies easier, not harder.

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For these and other reasons, House Bill 2226 is not in the best interests of Arizona.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Janet Napolitano", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Janet Napolitano
Governor

JN:TN/jm

cc: The Honorable Ken Bennett
The Honorable John Nelson